

Briefing Session Critics Stir Charge of Politics

By the Associated Press

Several Republicans registered criticism and Democrats countered with charges of political wrangling at secret briefings for Congressmen and Governors on the Cuban blockade.

"It was something of a rat race," said Senator Clark, Democrat of Pennsylvania, after yesterday's session in New York. But bipartisan support was noted, too, in this meeting and others in Fort Worth, Tex., Atlanta and Chicago. The sessions were conducted by Defense and State Department officials.

A note of controversy marked the fifth and last meeting in San Francisco today even before it got off the ground. Representative Pelly, Republican of Washington, said he was passing up the session because "I will not expose myself to more State Department propaganda."

Pelly Hits Defense

"When I get briefed I want the truth, not a tranquilizer treatment," Mr. Pelly said in a statement yesterday. "In the future, when I want information and an intelligence report, I shall go to our Defense Department, not our Department of State."

New York's Republican Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller—a possible contender for the presidency in 1964—sounded a bipartisan note when he told newsmen: "I think it (the Cuban situation) is exactly the way the President described it three nights ago. . . . I don't see how the President could have put it more forcibly."

But New Jersey's Democratic Gov. Richard J. Hughes said there was a "deplorable undercurrent of political questions" at the conference. And Senator Clark said it "was constantly interrupted by Re-

publicans making belligerent speeches and arguing with the officials."

Says Overhaul Needed

A Republican conferee, Representative Derounian of New York, reported that "after the briefing this morning I think our whole intelligence setup needs a thorough overhauling. We know less than we should. We certainly don't have the information."

A conflicting view was expressed after the Chicago session by Representatives Reuss, Democrat of Wisconsin. The briefing for Senators, Representatives and Governors from 14 Central States represented a "first-class job of intelligence by American intelligence agencies," he said.

Before the meeting got under way Gov. Norman A. Erbe of Iowa, a Republican, commented: "We should have had a definitive plan on Cuba a year ago, and we wouldn't be having this trouble now."

Opinion Called Unanimous

After the Fort Worth session, which drew officials from seven States, Gov. Orval E. Faubus of Arkansas said the unanimous opinion was "Let's don't negotiate and compromise. . . . Let's finish this job."

And in Atlanta, none of the conferees who talked with reporters gave any indication they would not support President Kennedy in any action he might feel necessary.

In Washington, Representative Boggs, Democrat of Louisiana, who was among congressional leaders who attended White House briefings earlier in the week, said in a statement that if Soviet-installed missiles in Cuba "are not dismantled we have the power to destroy them and I assure you that this will be done."

Says U. S. Will Act

In Lodi, Calif., Representative McFall, Democrat of California, told some 700 Democrats working for his re-election that "the United States is prepared to act with immediate force should Cuba attempt to arm its ballistic missiles."

Representative Zablocki, Democrat of Wisconsin, said last night in Milwaukee that

the United States will have no alternative but to remove the Cuban missile bases by pinpoint bombing if the Russians refuse to remove them "within a reasonable time."

And in Granite City, Ill., Senator Douglas, Democrat of Illinois, criticized "politicians who think the President should have acted earlier."

Mr. Kennedy, said Senator Douglas, "wanted to be sure the Western powers would support this action. He was wise in not acting too soon. He had to be sure we were ready when we took the stand."

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